

## **Introduction**

Enunciative responsibility as a linguistic phenomenon has not been much studied; hence our interest lies in the analysis of this phenomenon, using DMs as a tool for the analysis. Within the framework of Textual Analysis of Discourses (henceforth TAD), Adam (2008) refers to enunciative responsibility in two moments of his work: firstly, the it is seen as one of the dimensions of the propositional act (Adam, 2008, p. 115-122); secondly, it appears when the author refers to the markers of enunciative responsibility (Adam, 2008, p. 186-189). A number of previous studies in Brazil approached the category as a dimension of propositional act (Fernandes, 2012; Nascimento et al. 2012; Santos et al. 2010). However, to our knowledge there have been no study focusing on the proper categories of DM of enunciative responsibility. We hope that this research enables us to approach this linguistic phenomenon from a new perspective and possibly discover new questions for further investigation.

## **Research questions**

The aim of this contribution is to investigate discourse markers, which manifest enunciative responsibility (i.e. textual segments under dependence of other sources of knowledge) in Portuguese humorous texts of the genre *stand-up comedy*. Applying both quantitative and qualitative methods, the objective of the research is not only to analyze the frequency and the distribution of different categories of markers of enunciative responsibility in the corpus, but also to question whether the degree of responsibility in all three categories of markers is the same. These research questions, which we expect to answer, bring to the fore the category of enunciative responsibility within the framework of TAD.

## **Theoretical framework**

The research is situated within Text Linguistics (TL), in particular, it is based on Textual Analysis of Discourses (TAD) – the theoretical and methodological framework developed by French linguist J.-M. Adam (2008). Using the term “connector” as hyperonym, the author distinguishes three subclasses of markers (argumentative connectors, textual organizers and markers of enunciative responsibility) and endows them with a common function, namely, to segment or to link blocks of text. The main interest of this research lies within the scope of markers of enunciative responsibility, which attribute different points of view to various parts of texts and include, in their turn, three categories: markers-mediators (“de acordo com” *conforming to*, “segundo” *according to* etc.), markers of reformulation (“isto é” *that is*, “em outras palavras” *in other words* etc.) and markers of conversational structure (“bom” *well*, “você vê/vês” *you see*, “você sabe/sabes” *you know* etc).

## **Methodology**

Methodologically, the frequency and the distribution of DMs of enunciative responsibility will be analyzed by means of quantitative method. In order to answer the question whether the degree of responsibility in all three categories of markers is the same, we will turn to qualitative interpretative method taking into a thorough consideration the linguistic forms that DMs co-occur with in the context.

The textual analysis of DMs was carried out on the basis of a 41,652 word oral corpus of Portuguese stand-up show *Graças a Deus*. The total duration of the recordings is 3 hours 34 minutes. All the samples have been recorded and transcribed.

## **Results**

Table 1. Frequency and distribution of DMs of enunciative responsibility in Portuguese stand-up comedy.

DMs of enunciative responsibility (Adam, 2008)	Categories of DMs	DMs	Nº of occurrences	% of occurrences
	Markers-mediators (ou markers of sources of knowledge)	segundo ( <i>according to</i> )	1	1,11
	<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1,10</b>
	Markers of reformulation	quer dizer ( <i>I mean</i> )	16	17,58
		ou seja ( <i>that is</i> )	3	3,30
	<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>20,88</b>
	Markers of conversational structure	bem ( <i>well</i> )	11	12,09
		bom ( <i>well</i> )	6	6,59
		então ( <i>so</i> )	44	48,35
		sabes/sabe/sabem ( <i>you know</i> )	10	10,99
	<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>71</b>	<b>78,02</b>
	<b>Total</b>		<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>

## Discussion

The distribution of the categories of the DMs of enunciative responsibility in Portuguese stand-up comedy is extremely unequal (see Table 1).

As for the degree of responsibility in all the three categories of DMs, so far, we have definitely seen that the markers-mediators (ex. “segundo” (*according to*)) indicate the existence of epistemic mediation, thus we conclude that the comedian delegates responsibility to another source of knowledge. Concerning the markers of reformulation and the DM “quer dizer” (*I mean*) in particular, there are 13 cases of auto-referential

modification of point of view (PoV) versus only 3 cases of hetero-referential one (it is important to stress that Adam does not make any terminological distinction between PoV and enunciative responsibility). This extremely frequent occurrence of modification of PoV implies that the degree of the assumed responsibility is quite high.

As for the category of markers of conversational structure, “bem” (*well*) and “bom” (*well*) are clearly phatic expressions, for they convey no information and serve merely to perform a social task of communication. “Sabes/sabe/sabem” (*you know*) bear a two-fold function: they are phatic expressions, which occur on an interactional level. “Então” (*so*) is a phatic conversational marker and it functions as a mechanism that signals discourse continuity.

All things considered, we tried to demonstrate that although the DMs of conversational structure are included in the same “pack” of markers of enunciative responsibility, the degree of responsibility is less tangible. Nevertheless, we established two functional tendencies in this category: the interactional function (implies an active engagement of the audience into the process) and the continuity function (includes mainly phatic DMs that aim at maintaining discourse, i.e. maintaining the flow of the conversation).

## References

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